

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 INSE-00 VO-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF,IR, IZ

SUBJECT: KURDISH REFUGEES FROM IRAQ

REF: TEHRAN'S 2677; DEPT. 060263; BEIRUT'S 3674

KUWAIT - POUCH BAGHDAD

ROME FOR INS

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES RECENT REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM POSTS CONCERNING KURDISH REFUGEES. THESE HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROBLEM.

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2. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO CONSULTED WITH UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE

NEW YORK ON GENERAL PROBLEM OF KURDISH REFUGEES. DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS THE SUBJECT OF UNHCR ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL PROGRAM IN IRAN FOR THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT WAS RAISED. ACCORDING UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT UNHCR WILL INITIATE SPECIAL PROGRAM IN IRAN FOR RESETTLEMENT AND, IN FACT, UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE HAS INFORMED LEADERSHIP OF KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN NEW YORK THAT HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO ENCOURAGE MIGRATION OF KURDS FROM IRAN.

3. INITIAL REACTION OF IMMIGRATION SERVICE DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AT CENTRAL OFFICE WAS RELUCTANCE TO CONSIDER DETAIL OF INS OFFICER TO TEHRAN FOR PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING CONDITIONAL ENTRY APPLICATIONS FROM KURDISH REFUGEES. BASIS OF RELUCTANCE IS SHORTAGE OF CONDITIONAL ENTRY NUMBERS AND OVEREXTENDED PERSONNEL SITUATION WITHIN INS.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM IN IRAN WOULD PROBABLY ENCOURAGE LARGER NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR RESETTLEMENT IN US THAN COULD BE ACCOMMODATED THROUGH CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROCEDURE.

5. PRESENT ALTERNATIVES FOR THOSE KURDS WHO INQUIRE ARE THEREFORE LIMITED TO IMMIGRANT VISAS OR APPLICATIONS FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY AT POSTS WHERE INS FACILITIES EXIST.

6. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON CONDITIONAL ENTRY UNDER SECTION 203(A)(7) INA IS FURNISHED FOR EMBASSY'S GUIDANCE. KURDISH REFUGEES ARE STATUTORILY ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY. APPLICANTS MUST MEET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF INA WITH EXCEPTION OF SECTION 212(A)(14). APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO OFFICERS OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AT ATHENS, ROME, VIENNA AND FRANKFURT. DECISION ON ISSUANCE IS OF COURSE MATTER FOR INS. AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER PERIODICALLY VISITS BEIRUT. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH AMEMBASSY BEIRUT THAT EXISTING BACKLOG THERE IS SUCH THAT KURDS SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED FROM APPLYING AT BEIRUT. DEPARTMENT
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RECOGNIZES MOST KURDS WILL ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS TO ENTER COUNTRY WHERE APPLICATION CAN BE SUBMITTED AS WELL AS FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION.

7. REPLIES TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF TEHRAN'S 2677 FOLLOW:

A. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES NO DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM USG CAN BE PROVIDED FOR TRAVEL FROM TEHRAN TO POST OF APPLICATION.

B. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES LOCATED IN CITIES WHERE INS FACILITIES EXIST MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR REFUGEES AWAITING RESETTLEMENT.

C. PROCESSING TIME WHICH IS RELATIVELY LENGTHY AT ALL POSTS VARIES ACCORDING TO BACKLOGS EXISTING AT POSTS AND LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED TO PROCESS INDIVIDUAL CASES. ESTIMATED WAITING PERIOD AT EUROPEAN POSTS IS MUCH SHORTER THAN THAT AT BEIRUT.

D. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MAY BE ABLE TO ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION LOANS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL FROM APPLICATION POST TO US.

E. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTIFY EMBASSY IF SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ON PROCEDURES ARE MADE IN FUTURE.

8. PLEASE KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SITUATION AND NUMBERS OF INQUIRIES RECEIVED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KURDS, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE074440
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ORM:JMCHALE:AVR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750114-0588
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750488/aaaadcjb.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TEHRAN'S 2677, 75 DEP060263, 75 BEIRUT'S 3674
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KURDISH REFUGEES FROM IRAQ
TAGS: SREF, IR, IZ
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006